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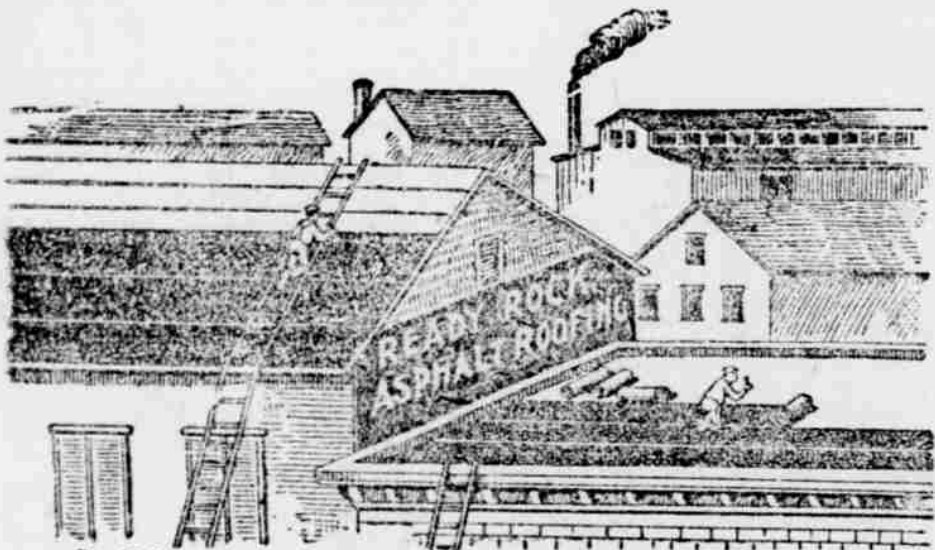
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## MARCHING ON PRETORIA

(Continued from Page 1.)

men and horses, and the Boers seem resolved not to move northward, but to be preparing to resist where they are. If they are let alone they will menace the line of communications after the main British army has passed into the Transvaal.

## Roberts at the Zand.

LONDON, May 9, 4:10 a. m.—Four thousand British cavalry watered their horses at Zand river Monday, twenty-five miles beyond Smaldeel, where Lord Roberts continues to issue his dispatches. The scouts who have been searching the country for miles along the stream have found no Boers south of the river. The enemy are laagered in unknown force on the north bank. Thus the British advance guard is within forty-five miles of Kroonstad. The Free Staters, in the expectation that Kroonstad will speedily become untenable, are, according to information from Lourenzo Marquez, preparing to transfer their government to Heithorn, a little more than fifty miles northeast. The proclamations of Lord Roberts appear to have little effect upon the inhabitants of the invaded districts. Every farm is found deserted, except by the women and children. All the men are away fighting.

## Hutton Has a Fight.

LONDON, May 10.—General Hutton's mounted infantry brigade, including the Canadians, with a part of Gen. French's cavalry, crossed the Zand river Tuesday and began to work cautiously along the railway northward in the track of the retreating Boers. About 800 horsemen were probably engaged in this advance. General Hutton, before he was joined by a part of General French's force, had a sharp fight. This was on Monday, when he crossed the river and saw the Boer convoys on the other side, and he pressed forward, intending to cross and capture them. The Boers, however, opened fire with from eight to ten guns, forded the river above and below, apparently in thousands, and sought to envelop the British. General Hutton fell back several miles, the Boers following until other British cavalry reinforced Hutton. During the night the Boers retreated, not further contesting the crossing.

Lord Roberts, according to one correspondent, left Smaldeel Tuesday to consult one of the Hamiltons, fifteen miles distant.

The Boer attack on General Hutton does not indicate any such panicky conditions as have been alleged to exist among them. Nevertheless, the British advance rolls on steadily. General Broadwood and General Bruce Hamilton have penetrated fifteen miles beyond Winburg. According to Boer advice, sharp skirmishes are of daily occurrence, and there was a brisk rifle engagement outside Winburg on Saturday.

From Boer sources comes also the report that in a skirmish outside of Mafeking, May 5th, Colonel Baden-Powell was slightly wounded.

## Battle of the Zand.

LONDON, May 11.—The Daily Express in its second edition this morning publishes a dispatch dated Rietsspruit, May 10, morning, describing the crossing of the Zand river by the British. It says:

"The rear guard of the end of the Boers, with their guns, resisted the advance. The mounted infantry, two batteries and pom-poms, cleared the way, and the Third Cavalry brigade acted as a screen before the main column. General French was on the left and General Hamilton on the right. The Boers had destroyed all the bridges during their retreat."

"It is impossible to ascertain the Boer losses, but they are thought to be heavy. Those of the British, considering the important advance made, are considered light."

RIETSPRUIT, Thursday, May 10.—Morning.—The Boers opposed the British advance, holding positions north of Zand drift back along the whole line, from General Hamilton on the east and General Hutton on the west. Chiefly artillery was engaged. The Sussex regiment charged a kopje at the point of the bayonet, and the East Lancshires captured another.

The British loss is insignificant. General Hutton had a series of artillery duels, the Boers always retiring. Twenty Boers were taken prisoner. The advance continues.

A later dispatch, dated Cable Cart, May 10, says: "We are now across the Zand river. The enemy are in full retreat. They occupied a position only twenty miles in length. Because of the widely scattered force, it will take some time to learn the casualties, but I am hopeful we have not suffered much. The cavalry and horse artillery are pursuing the Boers by three different routes."

A dispatch from Lord Roberts, dated Zand River Camp, May 9, says: "I have received a most cheery telegram from Baden-Powell, dated April 27."

## Free States Concentrating.

MASERU, BASUTOLAND, May 10.—Free Staters are concentrating strongly in good positions on the Korannaberg hills lying eastward of the direct line of the Thabanchu to Windburg. President Steyn was with them yesterday but is believed to have gone northward after inspiring the Burghers with predictions of approaching Boer success through the assistance of thousands of foreigners who he said were pouring into Delagoa Bay.

General Dundie's division camped evening on the banks of the Little Liew River between Thabanchu and Ladybrand.

## Details from Riet Spruit.

LONDON, May 11, 1900.—A dispatch from Riet Spruit dated May 10, describes that fully successful operation. It says General Hamilton's scouts had on two previous days ascertained the Boers' position and strength. On Wednesday night the Cheshire regiment crossed the river, entrenched themselves and prepared to hold the passage for the regiments following.

"At daybreak on Thursday the main body crossed at two or three points. The mounted infantry was then in action driving off the advance Boers preparatory to a general forward movement."

"The Boer right first gave way but Tucker and Hamilton had a rougher task on the left. The Boers had six guns and served them well, working with great determination, but the Brit-

ish worked up closer and closer their guns meanwhile firing incessantly. "The East Lancashire and Sussex regiments by 11 o'clock had worked well to the front. The order was given and like a flash the two regiments sprang forward simultaneously and in a few moments had secured two commanding ridges. The advanced line was now within 1200 yards of the Boers' main trench and the latter were already losing heart from the demonstration of their flank, but they kept up a rapid though wild fire."

"At this moment the final charge was ordered and away went the Lancashire and the Sussex regiments again, but the Boers could not stand and they fairly bolted and the rout of the Boers along the whole line was then complete."

## Boers in American Politics.

NEW YORK, May 11.—Edward Lauterbach created a sensation at a meeting last night of the citizens' committee which is arranging for the entertainment of the Boer envoys who are expected on the Maasdam next Tuesday. Addressing the meeting, Mr. Lauterbach said:

"Neither of the two great political parties has taken any definite action on the position of this Government with respect to the Boer war. My own party has not seen fit to define its position. It is equally true that no other nation has done so. But judgment has gone by default against England in all civilized countries because of her action in South Africa. In our own country and in my own party I believe there is a latent fire that will require but a small amount of fanning to cause it to break out into a vast and powerful flame that will inspire the people who love justice, freedom and all that tend to a high civilization and right."

"I believe the Republican party is irretrievably lost if it leaves to the Democratic party the first opportunity to insert in its national platform a plank that will declare for the South African Republics. In Michigan the Republicans take the same stand with regard to the national party. I am unalterably opposed to leaving such action to the Democrats."

"I am a delegate to the convention, and I shall struggle and work harder for a Boer plank in the platform than I worked and struggled for a gold plank in the platform that was made up at St. Louis."

Rev. Father Ducey, who preceded Mr. Lauterbach, said:

"This country cannot afford to go to war over this question. We can talk now and arbitrate later. What the Boers want is sympathy and arbitration."

A committee was appointed to go down the bay to meet the envoys. The committee will conduct them to the city hall and introduce them to the Mayor.

## Mines Must Be Protected.

NEW YORK, May 9.—A Sun cable from London says: The correspondent of the Central News at Lourenzo Marquez says he has learned from a semi-official source in Pretoria that the European powers have sent a collective note to the South African republic in reference to threats to blow up the mines. The note, he says, intimates that the powers will hold the President and Government of the Transvaal responsible for the safety of the mines and declares that they will support Great Britain in any measures to force compensation if the threats are carried into effect.

## Gloom in Mafeking.

LONDON, May 9.—The tidings from Mafeking are gloomier than ever. Everybody there has an empty stomach and a pinched face. The natives are no longer given porridge, and the whites now have but a quart of that substance and a pound of horse sausage daily. Everything else eatable is gone. Insufficient food, wet tranches and cold nights are deadly to the health of the garrison. The information comes from reliable natives. Lady Sarah Wilson, under date of April 27th, says:

"The Boers now number 4,500, including young Eloff, President Krueger's grandson, who has sent for six more guns."

The Mafeking correspondent of the Times, who also emphasizes the extreme gravity of the situation, says:

"It is impossible to ignore the fatal significance of Colonel Baden-Powell's reference to the hardships endured by the women and children, among whom many deaths have already occurred. The commissariat is holding a certain stock of foodstuffs in reserve for use in the direst extremity."

The besieged are celebrating the two hundredth day of the siege with horse dinners, and Colonel Baden-Powell sent a message to Lord Roberts, saying:

"After two hundred days of siege, I desire to bring to your lordship's notice the exceptionally good spirit of loyalty which pervades all classes of the garrison, and the patience of everybody at Mafeking in making the best of things under the long strain of anxiety, hardship and privation, which is beyond all praise and a revelation to me. The men, half of whom are not accustomed to the use of arms, have adapted themselves to their duties with the greatest zeal and readiness. The place, and devotion of the women have been remarkable. With such spirits our organization runs like clockwork. I have every hope it will pull us through."

## A VIRGINIA MYSTERY.

A Secret Passage and a Crumbling Skeleton are Found.

RICHMOND, Va., May 10.—A secret passage has been discovered at Lower Brandon in an ancient Colonial mansion which has been the home of the Harrisons of Virginia for more than a century. While hanging a picture yesterday Miss Gullie Harrison unknowingly touched a secret spring and a panel slid back, disclosing a dark passage. The young lady called several members of the family and an investigation was made of the gloomy recess. It extended some distance back and along the massive wall of the house. Dust lay thick on the walls and along the stone floor of the passage. No discovery rewarded the searchers until the very end was reached. Here, from a staple in the wall, depended a rusty chain and on the floor beneath lay a human skull. In regular lines lay fragments which quickly vanished when touched, seeming to have been the remains of other portions of a human frame. The present members of the Harrison family had no idea of the existence of any secret passage in the mansion, nor is there any legend of any cruel ancestor who chained to the wall some enemy and left him there to die of hunger and thirst. The Harrisons of Lower Brandon are related to former President Harrison.

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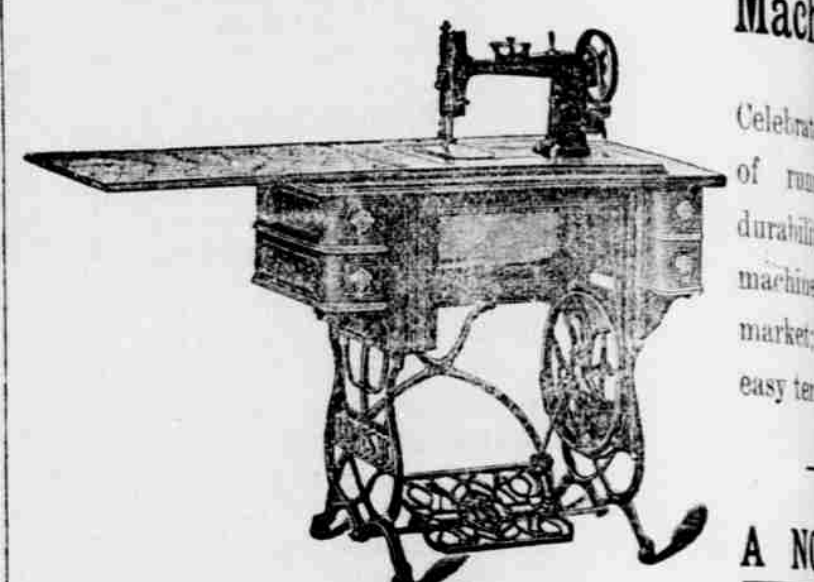
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